Review by NREGA Council

94. SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA : Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is true that the recently held first review meeting of NREGA Council identified several gaps in implementation of the Act;

(b) if so, the details of the meeting and loopholes identified by Council;

(c) what measure Government is taking to bring awareness among the labourers who have job cards but are not aware of the fact that they must apply for job in order to get employment as it is a demand-driven programme;

(d) the details of States which have set up a separate machinery to oversee implementation; and

(e) the reaons for not setting up of separate machinery by other States?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH): (a) and (b) The first meeting of Central Employment Guarantee Council constituted under Section 10(1) of the NREG Act was held on 27.9.2006. The members of the Council had made a few suggestions regarding implementation of the Act during the meeting. The suggestions are being examined by the Ministry.

(c) States have been requested to give wide publicity to the Act. They were asked to organize special meetings of Gram Sabha on 26th January and 2nd February to create awareness. Handbills, posters, wall writings were suggested in the campaign. Audio-video channel and print media are also being used for awareness creation, which is a continuous process.

(d) and (e) NREG Act does not provide for setting up of a separate machinery at the State level to oversee implementation of the Act. The Act however, provides for constitution of State Employment Guarantee Council by each State which has powers to undertake an evaluation of the Schemes operating in the State. The Ministry has reports from 8 States, namely Andhra Pradesh, Arunachal Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Himachal Pradesh, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Tripura and Tamil Nadu regarding setting up of State Employment Guarantee Councils.